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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,690	02/18/2004	Tsuyoshi Kuroki	00862.023465.	8951
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EXAMINER PONIKIEWSKI, TOMASZ				
ART UNIT 2165		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,690

Applicant(s)

KUROKI, TSUYOSHI

Examiner

Tomasz Ponikiewski

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 4-6, 8, 10-11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. The Amendment filed on November 19, 2007 has been received and entered.
Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are pending.

Specification

2. Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13 objected to because of the following informalities:

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are directed to global identification information.
The specification lacks the antecedent basis for the term. The examiner believes that the "global identification information" is the object id as described on page 15, lines 5-15 of the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanley et al. (2002/0156756 A1) in view of Ganapathy (US 7,159,111 B1).

As per claims 1, 8 and 10 Stanley et al. is directed to an information processing method, a computer-readable storage medium in an information processing apparatus, an information processing apparatus and a management information processing apparatus which generates an object in a three-dimensional virtual space and is connected to another information processing apparatus through a network to share the three-dimensional virtual space, the method comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring unique information from said another the other information processing apparatus, wherein the unique information uniquely identifies the information processing apparatus on the network (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10);

an object generation step of generating an object in the three-dimensional virtual space (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10);

a first generation step of generating local identification information to identify each of objects generated by said object generation step in the information processing apparatus (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037);

a transmitting step of transmitting, the global identification information with object information necessary for causing said another information processing apparatus to generate the object in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by said another

information processing apparatus, to said another information processing apparatus through the network (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10; “for causing” presents an intended use).

Stanley et al. does not teach a second generation step of generating global identification information of the object generated in said object generation step to identify each of the objects generated by said object generation step among all information processing apparatuses that share the three-dimensional virtual space, based on both the local identification information and the unique information of the information processing apparatus.

Ganapathy does teach a second generation step of generating global identification information of the object generated in said object generation step to identify each of the objects generated by said object generation step among all information processing apparatuses that share the three-dimensional virtual space, based on both the local identification information and the unique information of the information processing apparatus (Ganapathy, column 8, lines 7-11); and

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Stanley et al. by teachings of Ganapathy to include a second generation step of generating global identification information of the object generated in said object generation step to identify each of the objects generated by said object generation step among all information processing apparatuses that share the three-dimensional virtual space, based on both the local identification information and the unique information of the information processing apparatus because

generating a global identification information makes it easier to find and access an object.

As per claim 2 Stanley et al. as modified is directed to wherein said another information processing apparatus, from which the unique information is acquired, is a management information processing apparatus which manages the unique information of all information processing apparatuses that share the three-dimensional virtual space (Stanley et al. paragraph 0087, lines 1-5; Stanley et al. paragraph 0110, lines 1-7).

As per claim 4 Stanley et al. as modified is directed to further comprising:
a reception step of receiving the unique information with the object
information relating to the object processed by the another information processing
apparatus (Stanley et al., paragraph 0114), and

an object processing step of executing a process, based on the object
information received in the reception step, to the object corresponding to the unique
information in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by the information
processing apparatus (Stanley et al., paragraph 0115).

As per claim 5 Stanley et al. is directed to an information processing method in a
management information processing apparatus, the management information apparatus
managing information processing apparatuses which share a three-dimensional virtual
space, the method comprising:

a unique information determining step of determining unique information for each of the information processing apparatuses, wherein the unique information is different from each other (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10; Stanley et al., paragraph 0084, lines 5-9);

a sending step of sending the unique information determined in the determining step for each of the information processing apparatus to the corresponding one of the information processing apparatuses (Stanley et al., paragraph 0086); and

a receiving step of receiving object information relating to an object processed in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by one of the information processing apparatuses, (Stanley et al., paragraph 0110, lines 1-8).

Stanley et al. does not teach with global identification information including local identification information and the unique information that has been sent in the sending step, by the information processing apparatus from which the object information is sent wherein said local identification information is used to identify the object in the information processing apparatus

Ganapathy teaches with global identification information including local identification information and the unique information that has been sent in the sending step, by the information processing apparatus from which the object information is sent wherein said local identification information is used to identify the object in the information processing apparatus (Ganapathy, column 8, lines 7-11); and

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Stanley et al. by teachings of Ganapathy to include

with global identification information including local identification information and the unique information that has been sent in the sending step, by the information processing apparatus from which the object information is sent wherein said local identification information is used to identify the object in the information processing apparatus because generating a global identification information makes it easier to find and access an object.

As per claim 6 Stanley et al. as modified is directed to further comprising an object processing step of executing a process, based on the object information received by the receiving step, to the object corresponding to the unique information included in the received object information (Stanley et al., paragraph 0114, lines 7-14).

As per claim 11 Stanley et al. is directed to a management information processing apparatus which share a three-dimensional virtual space, the management information processing apparatus comprising:

a unique information determination unit that determines unique information for each of the information processing apparatuses, wherein the unique information is different from each other (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10; Stanley et al., paragraph 0084, lines 5-9);

a sending unit that sends each of the unique information determined by the determination unit for each of the information processing apparatus to the

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corresponding one of the information processing apparatuses (Stanley et al., paragraph 0086); and

a receiving unit that receives information relating to an object processed in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by one of the information processing apparatuses, by the information processing apparatus from which the object information is sent wherein said local identification information is used to identify the object in the information processing apparatus (Stanley et al., paragraph 0110, lines 1-8).

Stanley et al. does not teach with global identification information including local identification information and the unique information that has been sent in the sending step.

Ganapathy teaches with global identification information including local identification information and the unique information that has been sent in the sending step (Ganapathy, column 8, lines 7-11)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Stanley et al. by teachings of Ganapathy to include with global identification information including local identification information and the unique information that has been sent in the sending step because generating a global identification information makes it easier to find and access an object.

As per claim 13 Stanley et al. is directed to information processing system comprising:

a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected through a network to share a three-dimensional virtual space, each of the information processing apparatuses comprising (Stanley et al., paragraph 0036, lines 11-12):

an acquisition unit that acquires unique information from a management information processing apparatus connected through the network, wherein the unique information uniquely identifies the information processing apparatuses on the network (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10);

an object generation unit that generates an object in the three-dimensional virtual space (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10);

a first generation step of generating local identification information to identify each of objects generated by said object generation step in the information processing apparatus (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10);

a transmitting unit that transmits the global identification information with object information necessary for causing another information processing apparatus to generate the object in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by said another information processing apparatus, to said management information processing apparatus through the network (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10; "for causing" presents an intended use); and

the management information processing apparatus managing the plurality of information processing apparatuses, the management information processing apparatus comprising (Stanley et al., paragraph 0113, lines 4-5);

a unique information determination unit that determines unique information for each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses (Stanley et al., paragraph 0037, lines 5-10; Stanley et al., paragraph 0084, lines 5-9);

a sending unit that sends each of the unique information determined by the determination unit for each of the information processing apparatus to the corresponding one of the information processing apparatuses (Stanley et al., paragraph 0086); and

a receiving unit that receives the object information relating to the object processed in the three-dimensional virtual space presented by each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses with the global identification information, wherein said local identification information is used to identify the object in the information processing apparatus (Stanley et al., paragraph 0110, lines 1-8).

Stanley et al. does not teach a second generation step of generating global identification information of the object generated in said object generation step to identify each of the objects generated by said object generation step among all information processing apparatuses that share the three-dimensional virtual space, based on both the local identification information and the unique information of the information processing apparatus.

Ganapathy does teach a second generation step of generating global identification information of the object generated in said object generation step to identify each of the objects generated by said object generation step among all information processing apparatuses that share the three-dimensional virtual space,

based on both the local identification information and the unique information of the information processing apparatus (Ganapathy, column 8, lines 7-11); and

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Stanley et al. by teachings of Ganapathy to include a second generation step of generating global identification information of the object generated in said object generation step to identify each of the objects generated by said object generation step among all information processing apparatuses that share the three-dimensional virtual space, based on both the local identification information and the unique information of the information processing apparatus because generating a global identification information makes it easier to find and access an object.

Stanley et al. does not teach with the global identification information

Ganapathy teaches with the global identification information (Ganapathy, column 8, lines 7-11); and

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Stanley et al. by teachings of Ganapathy to include with the global identification information because generating global identification information makes it easier to find and access an object.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tomasz Ponikiewski whose telephone number is (571) 272-1721. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christian Chace can be reached on (571)272-4190. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T.P./

Examiner, Art Unit 2165

April 3, 2008

/N. A./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2165

4/3/08

/Christian P. Chace/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2165